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WIEDEMANN, ALFRED. Religion of the Ancient Egyptians. With 73 illustrations from the Monuments. New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1897. 8vo.

WILSON, JOHN.—An Exposure of the Hindu Religion, in reply to Mora Bhatta Dandekara . . . ; A Second Exposure of the Hindu Religion, in reply to Naráyana Ráo of Satárá . . . Bombay, American Mission Press, 1832, 1834. [2 vols. bound in 1.] 8vo.

WILSON, JOHN.—The Pársí Religion; as contained in the Zand-Avastá . . . etc. [Plate.] Bombay, American Mission Press. 1843. 8vo.

BOOK NOTICES.

Die Meteorologischen Elemente und ihre Beobachtung, mit Ausblicken auf Witterungskunde und Klimalehre. Unterlagen fur Schulgemässe Behandlung, sowie zum Selbstunterricht. Von Otto Meissner. Leipzig und Berlin, 1906. Teubner. 8vo. Pp. 94. Figs. 33.

The present volume, which appears in the *Sammlung naturwissenschaftlich-paedagogischer Abhandlungen,* edited by Otto Schmeil and W. B. Schmidt, gives in outline clearly and concisely the more important meteorological facts and theories, in a manner which, as the title implies, is adapted for school use, or for home instruction. The treatment is, however, so superficial that the book could hardly serve as a text-book in any systematic course of instruction in meteorology. The author has been very successful in selecting the salient points for discussion, and the clean-cut, definite statements which are the distinguishing feature of the book are admirably adapted to fix in the minds of young pupils a good idea of the elements of meteorology. There is a brief discussion of the relation between weather conditions and organic life, and of weather forecasting. The derivation of technical terms is given in foot-notes. The illustrations are of the simplest character, but serve sufficiently well. References, except to about a dozen standard books, are not included. R. DEC. W.

Les Tremblements de Terre. Géographie séismologique. Par F. Montessus de Ballore. With a preface by M. A. de Lapparent. Paris, Librairie Armand Colin, 1906.

The search for the causes of earthquakes is as old as their observation by man, and every nation and every age has had its own theories regarding the solution of the problem. There is hardly any phenomenon of nature which has not, at one time or other, been made responsible for the origin of seismic disturbances. But all these hypotheses had the same fate—while they sufficed to explain the phenomenon in the location where they were first put forth, they gave out as soon as an application to the whole earth was attempted. All these theories can be classified as either exogenous, seeking the origin of earthquakes outside, or endogenous, seeking their origin inside, the earth's crust. Galileo was the first to recognize this fundamental distinction, but not until geology was well developed as a science could an attempt be made to solve the problem. Modern science considers earthquakes as normal incidents which accompany the natural geological processes, and makes only endogenous causes responsible for them: volcanic disturbances, tectonic re-adjustments, or the caving in of subterranean hollows. A thoroughly scientific and comprehensive treatment of this important phenomenon will not, however, be possible without more complete material than what is now available; it will take long series of observations, continued for many years, of seismological stations evenly distributed all over the earth, to tell genuine seismic from pseudo-seismic movements, and to establish definitely the laws governing the former.

What comes nearest to this ideal requirement is to work up all the data now available, uneven though this material may be, from different parts of the globe as well as from different times. This is what has been done by Count Montessus de Ballore, who in his "Tremblements de Terre" has given us the first geography of earthquakes on a scientific basis, complete and up to date as far as our present information goes. His results are so much more valuable because they were derived strictly from his statistics of earthquakes, without any preconceived idea or hypothesis. During twenty-five years of incessant labour the author has registered and card-catalogued every earthquake known to history or science, from Greek mythology to the records of the seismograph, and, by a geographical study of their distribution over the surface of the earth, has discovered their relation to the geological configuration of the earth's crust. More than 170,000 earthquakes were thus recorded and examined. The author did not, however, find this material sufficient to establish a scale of the degrees of "seismicity" for the different regions; he says that at least five years of continued observations, covering the principal areas of the globe, would be necessary for that. From the records on hand, however, a certain parallelism of frequence and intensity may be inferred, and upon this foundation he makes the preliminary classification into seismic, peneseismic, and aseismic regions—viz., regions with frequent, few, or no seismic disturbances.

The author's work is an object-lesson on the value of the geographical method for all those who still doubt whether geography can claim to be a separate science at all. It furnishes a beautiful illustration of Ratzel's epigrammatic definition so often repeated in response to the question what was the true and distinctive characteristic of geography: "It is all in the question: Where?" The author has applied this question to his card catalogue. He put down on maps the answers which his cards gave to this question. In this way the seismic regions of the earth were definitely located. He then compared these locations with the geological structure of the respective regions. He found that the regions of greatest seismic activity corresponded everywhere with regions of young geological disturbances—viz., with the great geo-synclines of Haugk. Bedded in between the geo-synclines are the undisturbed areas, the "shields" of Suess; they are purely aseismic. The peneseismic, at last, are regions of old mountains, like the Appalachians and the European Mittelgebirge. The younger the geological disturbance, the more likely the country is to be visited by earthquakes. Three important exceptions cannot be classified under this rule: The Charleston earthquake is a perfect anomaly, for which no acceptable explanation has yet been found; the Lake Baikal region, whose earthquakes are probably due to the work of the local forces which created that basin; and the Chinese region, for which not only data are scarce but those that we have must also be used with great precaution, because the Chinese use the term "earthquake" also to denote many natural catastrophes which are not of a seismic origin at all.

It is, therefore, safe to say that, generally speaking, earthquakes are preeminently of tectonic origin—namely, due to the continuous adjustment and readjustment of fault blocks and folds in young mountains. The independence of seismic from volcanic disturbances seems thereby definitely established.

In the special part the author takes up, one by one, the geo-morphological divisions of the earth and compares their geological and seismological conditions. He makes the following divisions: I. The North-Atlantic Continent. II. The extra-European shields: the Pacific. III. The Mediterranean Geo-syncline. IV. The circum-Pacific syncline, and subdivides them into (I) 1. The Finno-Scandinavian shield; 2, the British Isles; 3, Central Europe from the Atlantic to Silesia; 4, the Russian Platform; 5, Northern Atlantic and Arctic regions; 6, Atlantic slope of the United States and Europe; (II) 7, the Sino-Siberian continent; 8, the Australo-Indian-Malay continent; 9, the Africo-Brazilian continent; 10, the Pacific and the Antarctic regions; (III) 11, the islands of the Dutch East Indies and the Bay of Bengal; 12, Himalaya and its dependencies; 13, Nearer Asia; 14, Carpathians and dependencies; 15, Southeastern Europe; 16, Alps and Pyrenees; 17, Italy; 18, Eastern basin of the Mediterranean; 19, mouth of the Tagus and subtropical North-Atlantic; (IV) 20, the Andes; 21, the Antilles and Central America; 22, Rocky mountains and dependencies; 23, Pacific border of the Sino-Siberian continent; 24, New Guinea, Melanesia and New Zealand. Eighty-seven diagrams and sketches illustrate the text, and it is only to be regretted that the system of dots which is used to express seismicity is not uniform on the different figures; this would greatly facilitate comparisons. The three large maps at the end of the book are in themselves a concentrated expression of the author's work; they are maps which illustrate our present knowledge of earthquakes, not the author's theories; but while not drawn *ad hoc,* they contain, after all, the most convincing proof of the author's conclusions. By giving us this book, the French seismologist has laid a foundation upon which every one who takes up the subject after him will have to build. M. K. G.

Der Unterricht in der Erdkunde auf Grundlage des Landschafts-prinzipes. Ein Lehrbuch für Seminaristen und junge Lehrer. Von H. Heinze. Kgl. Seminarlehrer in Friedeberg Nm. Leipzig, Dürrsche Buchhandlung, 1904.

The book is intended for the preparation of teachers of geography in primary and secondary schools. The "Landschaft," or natural division, is made the foundation of the course, and another distinctive feature is the prominent place given in it to home geography, from which not only all geographical instruction must start, but whose strengthening and broadening is also expected as a by-product from the treatment of all other stages of the course. The author requires observation, either of the objects themselves or of good reproductions, among which globes and maps occupy a prominent place, to form the basis of all geographical instruction. The pupils must re-discover, as it were, the discoveries of scientific geography which are to become their mental property; in this thinking process the causal connections must stand foremost, so that while the pupil is instructed in regional geography he will incidentally gain a working knowledge of the general geographical laws and principles. A knowledge of the latter thus acquired is considered by the author far superior to one obtained by the systematic treatment of physical geography in the schools. He consents to the latter only at the end of the various chapters of the regional treatment when related and similar phenomena will be, by way of reviewing the subject, brought together and classified so that the system will be discovered, so to speak, by the pupils themselves